Donna MacDonald, M.A., has been selected as the 2013 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award recipient. The award is presented annually by the U-M Geriatrics Center to recognize outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan.

Donna has been the director of Community Outreach and Professional Development at Wayne State University’s Institute of Gerontology since 2007. She is devoted to educating older adults on different aspects of successful aging and healthcare, as well as training healthcare professionals in the area of gerontology. She develops programming for senior citizens on a variety of topics, with speakers from the academic and professional community. The programming provides open dialogue with experts, to help the senior population face constantly changing needs and industry trends, and maintain a healthy and productive way of life.

When she began, the WSU IoG’s professional programming consisted of one conference, but has now grown to over 70 programs in 2012. The combined number of programs for seniors and professionals is currently at 117, and Donna has been the driving force behind this growth. Her programs reach an audience of thousands, but she was commended not only for the quantity, but for the high quality of her work, and for her love of seniors. “I’m humbled to receive the DeVito Award,” Donna says. “My heart is with older adults and their well-being, and I’m so glad to be able to share this wonderful honor with the people who support me and my mission.”